

REMARKS

The last Office Action has been carefully considered.

It is noted that Claims 16, 18, 20, 23, and 24 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over the U.S. patent to Funken, et al.

Claim 21 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over the U.S. patent to Funken, et al

Claim 22 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over the patent to Funken, et al in view of the patent to Cope.

At the same time, the Examiner indicated that Claims 17 and 19 were allowable.

The Examiner's indication of the allowability of Claims 17 and 19 has been gratefully acknowledged. In connection with this, Claim 17 has been cancelled and its features have been introduced into Claim 16, the broadest claim on file.

The thusly amended Claim 16 should be considered as being in allowable condition.

Claims 18-23 have been amended or retained to depend on the thusly amended Claim 16. Since they share the allowable features of this claim, they should be in allowable condition as well.

Finally, Claim 24 has been amended by also including into it the features of the allowable Claim 17 and thus making it allowable.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the present application now contains only allowable claims.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Alternatively, should

the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Striker", is written over the typed name.

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